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DEC 19 2003 VOID

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DEC 16 2003

ANDREW S. BRENC ARNOLD AND PORTER 555 TWELFTH STREET, NW IP DOCKETING DEPARTMENT, ROOM 1126B WASHINGTON, DC 20004-1206

In re application of

Masaaki Goto et al.

Serial No.: 08/915,004

Filed: August 20, 1997

Attorney Docket No.: 16991.010

: DECISION ON PETITION

This communication is in response to applicants' petition filed June 19, 2003 to determine the status of the above identified application. Since this is simply an inquiry rather than a petition, no petition fee is due.

A review of the file history shows that prosecution of the application was suspended on March 21, 2001. Since that time applicants have filed 5 inquiries regarding the status of the application, but have not received any reply.

Prosecution of the application remains suspended due to a possible interference. Within a few days the application will be forwarded to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences (BPAI) to determine whether an interference will be declared.

Future inquiries should be made by telephone and directed to the examiner, Michael Pak, at 703-305-7038. The phone number for the BPAI is 703-308-9797.

The petition fee of \$130 will be refunded to Deposit Account No. 50-2387, as directed.

Should there be any questions with regard to this letter please contact Bruce Campell by letter addressed to the Director, Technology Center 1600, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450, or by telephone at (703) 308-4205 or by facsimile transmission at (703) 746-5006.

Jasemine Chambers

Director, Technology Center 1600